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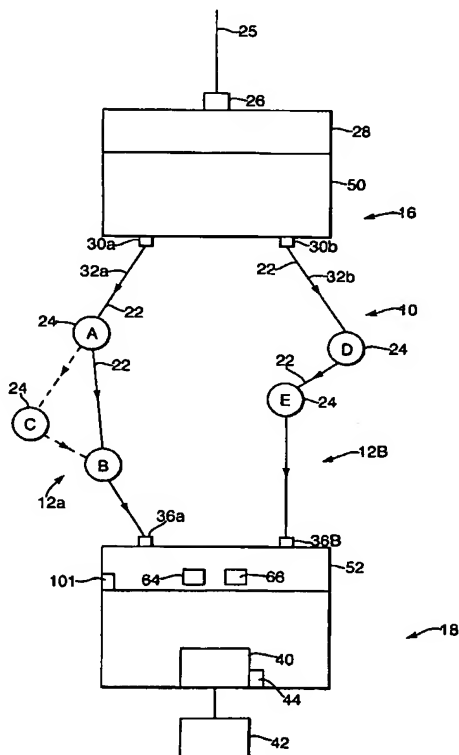
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| <p>(51) <b>International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>:</b> <b>H04L 12/26</b>,<br/>12/24, 29/06, 12/28</p> <p>(21) <b>International Application Number:</b><br/>PCT/GB2004/003781</p> <p>(22) <b>International Filing Date:</b><br/>2 September 2004 (02.09.2004)</p> <p>(25) <b>Filing Language:</b> English</p> <p>(26) <b>Publication Language:</b> English</p> <p>(30) <b>Priority Data:</b><br/>0321342.8      11 September 2003 (11.09.2003)      GB</p> <p>(71) <b>Applicant (for all designated States except US):</b> <b>BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY</b> [GB/GB]; 81 Newgate Street, London, Greater London EC1A 7AJ (GB).</p> | <p>(72) <b>Inventor; and</b><br/>(75) <b>Inventor/Applicant (for US only):</b> <b>RAYNER, Andrew</b> [GB/GB]; 31 Gainsborough Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 7HT (GB).</p> <p>(74) <b>Agent:</b> <b>CHABASSEUR, Vincent, Robert;</b> BT Group Legal Intellectual Property Department, PP C5A, BT Centre, 81 Newgate Street, London, Greater London EC1A 7AJ (GB).</p> <p>(81) <b>Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available):</b> AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.</p> |
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- (54) Title: MONITORING A NETWORK PATH**



- (57) Abstract:** The present invention relates to the monitoring of paths along which signals are carried in a telecommunications network, in particular to determine if a path has been altered. Each path has a transit time associated therewith for data transport along that path. The method comprises the steps of: monitoring the difference between the transit time of a first signal path and the transit time of a second signal path, such that a change in the difference between the transit times of the two paths can be detected; and, in dependence at least in part on any such detected change, generating an alarm signal. The alarm signal can be used to indicate to a customer that one of the paths has been re-routed.



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